

Attendees: Byron Keadle, Howard Taylor, John Babyak, Bob Loun, Dave Cook, Malcolm Peterson, Bob Turner, Jim Wilcox, Steve Neal, Theodore Ifft, Ralph Cruikshank, Pete Sorge, Tom Taylor, Herb Hanson, Earl Gayler; Tom Tarpley, Errol Myers.

Call to Order - The MISGA President, Byron Keadle, opened the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

President's Remarks – There would be one proxy at the meeting and that would be John Babyak for John Kennedy. The pewter trays for the awards have been delivered. We will have them at Prospect Bay. There are some new Board members: the newest one is Tom Tarpley of Holly Hills, our new webmaster, Errol Myers of Norbeck, Ted Ifft of the University of MD, the Assistant Director of Division VI, Howard Taylor, the Assistant Director of Division I and Vice-President of MISGA, and Ralph Cruikshank of Harbourtowne, the Associates Chairman. We should use the website more frequently because we're printing a number of applications and entry forms for the frolics every year causing additional pages in the Misgagram. An alternative would be the e-mail distribution system. That would free up pages in the Misgagram to limit it to useful articles of interest to most members. Some members are not reading the Misgagram; some didn't know that there was an event in Williamsburg. I sent an e-mail out recently for two reasons: one, that we need to tell Prospect Bay how many people they can expect for lunch, and second, to test the e-mail distribution system. There were a number of comments after the President's first editorial in the Misgagram. One of them said, "I feel that the cheating and handicap issue are major problems facing MISGA and its continuation as a viable organization. I think a positive step was when Dick Crone and his Rules and Handicap Committee suspended the eligibility of a number of MISGA members for not posting their scores in the two-man or ABCD tournaments."

Secretary's Report – The minutes of the December 2008 Meeting were previously distributed via e-mail and were published on the web site. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Sorrell was not at the meeting but his reports had been distributed via e-mail. The budget for 2009 will require approval. He has budgeted for an \$8,000 rebate. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2009 budget. The budget was approved. Gary is looking for someone to take his place as Treasurer. A request for a replacement will be in the next Misgagram.

Vice-President's Report – Howard said after five tears on the Board, he is glad to finally be able to vote.

Director's Reports

Division I – John Kennedy was absent and Howard Taylor gave the report. There are a lot of rumors and e-mails about the demise of Maple Dale. They had a contract to sell the club to Wild Quail and it was supposed to close by the end of March. The sale has fallen through, the board has resigned, a new board is in place, they have new financing, they are going forward and will have MISGA this year. Last year, Maple Dale had sixty MISGA members, they now have twenty and some others may still come back. Sussex Pines rebuilt fifteen greens and they will start playing on them in April.

Division II – A report distributed via e-mail. Bob Loun reported that the division held its reps seminar on March 10th. Tom Tarpley has been elected as the Assistant Division Director. The VFW C.C. will surely not be in existence. The management of the club has gotten itself into difficulty when they built a new clubhouse. They leased part of it out but the tenant has vacated and they are not meeting their mortgage obligations. The membership has been reduced by about 60%. The Board of Directors plan to sell most of the real estate south of the creek, which includes the whole golf course. They hope to be able to keep the building as a VFW Post. VFW could not give MISGA assurance that they would be able to play their season matches. They have a tentative agreement that their home matches, this year, would be played at Musket Ridge. They are looking at the possibility of Musket Ridge becoming a permanent member of MISGA. Matches would still be played on Wednesdays. A discussion about VFW followed.

Division III – A report distributed via e-mail. Dave Cook reported that they had a number of new reps this year. They will have a reps seminar in April. They appointed an ad hoc committee to evaluate Hunters Oak for admission to MISGA. The committee recommended that Hunters Oak be admitted. It's a very challenging course with three nines. The roster has not been received. Prospect Bay will host the Annual Reps Meeting on April 6th.

Division IV – A report distributed via e-mail. Bob Turner said he has four new reps and a seminar is set for April. He said that we need to encourage greater participation for the Winter Fling at Crystal River in Florida. There were only four associates that attended from the division. The total number of associates that attended this year was the same as last year, but was down 30% from 2007.

Division V – Steve Neal added to Bob Turner's comments about the Winter Fling since it is run by Division V. The facility at Crystal River is greatly improved. Of all of the people that played there, 84% won a prize. Also, on the last day, to encourage low handicappers, three flights were established based on handicaps, AB, BC and CD. That seemed to be well received. There were just short of sixty players in attendance. The division is not sure of the status of one of its clubs, Green Hill. The club has a major expense coming up and some club members may not stay. They should be O.K. for MISGA for this year. A discussion about the Fall and Winter events followed.

Division VI – A report distributed via e-mail. The reps seminar, the tournaments and pro-am dates are set.

Committee Reports

Associates – A report was submitted via e-mail. Ralph Cruikshank said that he just returned from playing in a golf event in Florida and the attendance at that event was down about 40% from last year for the same reasons being given to MISGA by associates. He has received a lot of files from Charlie Fieldhouse and he will try to figure out what he is supposed to do. He received a request for mailing labels for all of the club reps and assistant reps. His list of associates and the website do not match. The list changes almost daily. Reports are due on or before June 15th. He does not understand why associates dues is sent to him and not to the Treasurer.

Audit – A report was submitted via e-mail. There were three new audits since the last meeting. An audit was completed for the State Two-man tournament at Ocean Pines in August. There was a surplus of \$273 and it was recommended that that be turned over to the MISGA Treasurer. An audit was completed for the State ABCD Tournament at Piney Branch in August. There was a surplus of \$0.14 which was retained in the Piney Branch MISGA account. The Treasurer's records were also audited with one item underpaid. That will be paid in 2009. The reports for Amelia and Fripp Island were just received that morning and they will be reported on at the next meeting.

Counsel – Jim Ewalt did not attend the meeting.

Events – The 2009 Fall Frolic will be at a new venue, the Pinehurst area. We're going to be playing at Little River and Seven Lakes, about a six and a half hour drive from the Washington area. All of the accommodations will be two-bedroom suites, all only with queen size beds, with a living room, dining room and kitchen between the two bedrooms. The trip will be relatively inexpensive compared to most of the venues that we have gone to. The cost for an eighteen-hole golfer will be \$796. The dates are Sunday November 1st to Friday November 6th. For only two people in the suite, there will be a premium of \$120 per person. There are two gift certificates, four days and three nights at Amelia Island, that will be given, via a lottery, at Williamsburg. The gift certificates are sold by lottery and the proceeds go back into prize money. If there is a groundswell and if space is available, we might have a second frolic. Division VI is having a pro-am on the 29th of June and the division would appreciate it if the board members would try to bring a team.

Historian – Mike Giuffrida did not attend the meeting. Byron said that normally, at this time of the year, we would have had a document called the Cumulative History of Board Actions. We do not have the report for 2008. This report is what keeps the Board from overruling previous board actions. Another document is the History of Board Actions for 2008 which is merged with all of the previous actions to create the Cumulative History. We also don't have the MISGA Archives. Previously, the Webmaster had all of the data needed to create an archive, and working with Bill Brown, the previous Historian, he created the archive. Errol Myers may have to produce the archive.

Membership – A report was submitted via e-mail. Tom Taylor said that just about everything in the distributed report is incorrect. He is urging the Board to give tentative approval for Hunters Oak to join MISGA Division III, pending the submission of their membership list. The Easton Club has been turned over to the University of Maryland Foundation and they are managing the club. They will still be in MISGA. There was a discussion relative to public clubs in MISGA advertising MISGA memberships.

MISGAGRAM – A report was submitted via e-mail. The April 2009 issue is at the printers and should be in the mail by the end of March. In the issue are the applications for Carroll Valley and Little River and a reminder about the Spring Fling in Williamsburg. Postage for the April issue is higher than normal because of the twelve pages but we should stay within the budget for the year. Submission of articles and relevant information is always welcomed.

Policy and Planning – Concerning the centralized location of State Tournaments. The schedule is set for the next two years. Hunters Oak could fit in the rotation.

Past Presidents – Don Ewalt did not attend the meeting.

Rules & Handicaps – Dick Crone did not attend the meeting but did submit a report via e-mail.

Tournament Chairman – A report was submitted via e-mail. The State ABCD Tournament will be at Manor C.C. and will cost \$90. The Two-Man event will be at Prospect Bay and will cost \$85. In 2010, that ABCD will be at Chartwell and the Two-man will be at Holly Hills. Supplemental funds have been used in the last two years for some of the State Tournaments. Tom Tarpley asked if the Board would be agreeable to providing some of the funds needed for the events if the committee runs into a problem. Some clubs subsidize the costs for their associates. The cost of trophies for those events is paid for out of the MISGA Treasury. A discussion concerning subsidies followed. No subsidies were agreed to.

Website – A website report was distributed via e-mail. The new webmaster is looking at a software add-on for the website to handle the picture images. An ad hoc committee on photography was considered to develop some standards between the Misgagram and the website. The webmaster will try to develop something on the website for the flings and frolics. Currently, he gets pictures from the events but no captions.

New Business

Suspension of Ineligibility Rules – Tom Tarpley commended Dick Crone for the great job that he has done with handicap monitoring. A compliance of 90% is real good. Dick would like to suspend the rules for enforcing eligibility for 2009 and he would like for the Board to concur. He would like to spot-check posting in 2009 and if compliance is lacking, the rules would be reinstated. It's a workload problem, there is no lack of interest in seeing that correct scores are posted. Much discussion followed. A motion was made to request the suspension of the Tournament Policy regarding the ineligibility of an associate for the MISGA Championship Tournaments (ABCD and Two-Man) in 2010 for not posting a score in the 2009 MISGA Championship Tournaments. The motion was approved with six in favor and four opposed. GolfNfnet has changed compared to last year to now protect the privacy of golfers. There is some concern that profile information might be sold for commercial purposes.

Virtual Clubs – Bob Turner said that the recession is going to cause more clubs to be in financial trouble. There are a couple of clubs where we may lose MISGA. Before this recession is over, we might have two, three or four hundred associates become "orphans". He would like to find a way to keep the associates in MISGA. The only thing that he could think of was a virtual club. It would require study and a change to the by-laws. Questions were raised about waiving reciprocal green fees, the \$50 club dues and associates dues. Earl Gayler felt that a dozen changes would need to be made to the by-laws. Most of the people that are members of clubs that close or drop MISGA are accommodated at other clubs. The discussion was ended without any action.

Admission of Hunters Oak to MISGA – It was a recommendation of the Membership Committee that the MISGA Board accept Hunters Oak into MISGA pending the submission of their membership roster. A motion was made by Howard Taylor to accept Hunters Oak into MISGA. Bob Turner seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Senior Tees – Tom Tarpley proposed that in 2009, the State Tournaments would be played from the forward men's tees. A motion was made that the State Tournaments be played from the Senior tees. The motion was seconded and approved.

Wrap-up – The next meeting is the Annual Reps Meeting and is scheduled for April 6, 2009 at Prospect Bay. There was a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

MISGA Board Meeting
March 18, 2009
Crofton Country Club
President's Report

AWARDS: Pewter Trays have been ordered and received (1/30/09).

New Board Members –The MISGA Board of Directors for 2009 consists of the following new people:

- Associates Chairman - Ralph Cruikshank of Harbournowne;
- Webmaster - Errol Myers of Norbeck;
- Tournaments Chairman - Tom Tarpley of Holly Hills;
- Chairman of the Past Presidents Ad Hoc Committee - Don Ewalt of Salisbury Elks;
- Director - Ted Ifft, U of MD, Asst. Dir Div VI;
- Director - Howard Taylor, Maple Dale Asst. Dir Div I, and also Vice-President of MISGA.

MISGA Web Site: We should rely more on the web site for Event Flyers & Entry forms. This will get the information to our associates quicker than the MISGAGRAM can and will save money by reducing pages or will free up more space for substantive articles from associates. After all, we don't expect 2700 additional applicants for each Event. As an alternative, we could use the MISGA Email Distribution System to deliver the forms to all associates..

COMMUNICATIONS: Some associates are not using the web site or reading the MISGAGRAM. For instance, some didn't know what the Williamsburg Spring Fling was about. Another indication was that I received an email from an associate containing "Old Men on the Tee." This article appeared in the December MISGAGRAM. So, either this person didn't read the MISGAGRAM or another senior moment occurred. How can we overcome this lethargy or indifference to the MISGA communications? If people are not going to read the MISGAGRAM, then it's cheaper for MISGA if they not read the web site version.

Annual Meeting Attendance: I sent out an email to Directors, cc: Committee Chairmen. The purpose of the email is to determine the number of associates from each division who will attend the annual meeting and how many will stay for lunch. Prospect Bay needs some indication of how much food to prepare. A second purpose is to test the MISGA Email Distribution System. The responses will show how well the system is working. I hope all the address books are up to date.

ASSOCIATES' COMMENTS: A number of associates responded to my December 2008 editorial in the MISGAGRAM. I have prepared an article for the April MISGAGRAM summarizing some of the suggestions. I won't go into them here, except to quote one response, which reflects favorably on one of our own.

"I feel that the "cheating" and the handicap issue are major problems facing MISGA, and its continuation as a viable organization. I think that a positive step was taken when Dick Crone and his Rules and Handicap Committee suspended the eligibility of a number of MISGA members for not posting their scores in the two-man or ABCD tournament."

Byron Keadle

Membership Committee Report
Crofton Country Club
March 18, 2009

This early in the season there is very little to report however, Hunters Oak Golf Club, located in Easton, Md. has petitioned MISGA to join us in 2009. The first steps have been taken; the required visitations have been made; the report has been prepared; and a favorable Division vote has been taken. We are still awaiting a membership list.

I urge the Board to give them tentative approval to join MISGA in Div. I pending submission of their membership list.

Clubs in known trouble:

Maple Dale, Div. I - in the hands of a realtor
VFW, Div II – The golf course is in the hands of a realtor.
They will retain their clubhouse, but the course will be sold. The Club Rep. is making arrangements to move their dates to either Musket Ridge or Hollow Creek, both of which are located in the Frederick, Md. area.

Miscellaneous:

The Easton Club operations have been turned over to the University of Maryland Foundation.

MISGA Board Meeting
March 18, 2009
ASSOCIATES CHAIRMAN REPORT

A. Assumption of Duties from Charlie Fieldhouse:

1. All data files, reports and other information transferred successfully to my Mac Computer from Charlie's PC and backup completed.
2. Reports from field starting to filter in

B. New project:

1. Validate/update/synchronize various databases/information

Ralph Cruikshank
Associates Chairman

Report of the MISGA Rules and Handicap Committee
to the Board and Officers of MISGA
for the MISGA Board Meeting
at Crofton
on March 18, 2009

Recent Committee Activity

2008 Tournament Score Posting

The Associates determined to have not posted their scores from the 2008 MISGA Championships were notified by mail that they would not be eligible to participate in the 2009 MISGA Championships. Several Associates have appealed. The Chairman is consulting with the Tournament Chairman regarding the issues involved.

Reminding Associates regarding March 15 Score Posting

On March 16, President Keadle sent out a notice, prepared by the Chairman, via the MISGA Email Distribution System, reminding all Associates that the score posting season begins for rounds played in Maryland and Delaware on and after March 15, and that scores are to be timely posted before the 15th and the end of the month (As of 2008, Maryland conforms to the twice-monthly index revisions which Delaware already had.)

Committee Activities Planned for 2009

Inform Membership regarding Rules issues

-- In the MISGAGram

The Chairman intends to emphasize Rules issues in 2009 (at the suggestion of President Keadle), particularly through the MISGAGram. This emphasis was begun with the September 2008 issue of the 'gram, with the article "Marking Your Ball," which had been written as part of former MISGA President Sam Hall's "Ad Hoc Committee on Rules and Handicaps" 2001 Rules and Handicap Project.

The Committee Chairman intends to continue to submit to the MISGAGram editor many of the fine articles (with or without slight alteration) from that project, to provide friendly reminders to the Associates regarding Rules issues.

-- By distributing USGA Rules in Brief pamphlets at the Annual Reps Meeting at Prospect Bay in April (again at the suggestion of President Keadle)

Monitoring of Posting of 2009 Championship Tournament Scores

The Chairman intends to randomly check of score postings for the 2009 Championships, to assist the Board in determining whether the Tournament Ineligibility Policy should be suspended by the Board for the 2010-2011 period.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Crone
Kenwood
Chairman, MISGA Rules and Handicap Committee

MISGA Board Meeting
Wednesday, 18 March 2009
Crofton Country Club

MISGAgram

The April 2009 issue is at the printers. The print-run size is expected to be 2700, the same as for the Dec. 2008 issue. This issue is twelve (12) pages and instructions and applications for both Carroll Valley and Little River (Fall Fling) and a reminder of the Spring Fling at Williamsburg, VA.

Postage costs for this issue are expected to be about 20% higher than December 2008 because of the heavier weight of each copy (over 1 oz.). Postal rates are to be increased in May 2009 and will affect the next issue; the increase for the 'gram is not yet known.

For future issues, more pics of events of general interest will be welcomed. Also, reports of hole-in-one, eagle, and/or an Associate shooting their age (or below) will be appreciated. Other items that should be of general interest to Associates are always welcome.

The July issue should include a report of the Florida Winter Fling and reminders for both Carroll Valley and Little River. A summary report of the Spring Fling (Williamsburg) with pictures would be appropriate in the July issue.

Total cost for the MISGAgram for 2009 should be within the budget proposed budget; especially if more Associates opt-out of a hard copy and elect to read the 'gram on the web site.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Hanson, Editor of **MISGAgram**

MISGA Board Meeting
March 18, 2009
Web Site Report

A. Website maintenance and additions:

1. Identified some potential Image software options as an add-on to website, some freeware, some with modest cost.
2. Starting to re-format specific pages to improve readability
3. Updates for leadership, events, etc.

B. Development Projects for Upcoming Months:

1. Develop a feedback/survey input page.
2. Consolidate the Club Map and Club Website pages and update with Google Maps.
3. Evaluate Image Sharing software to add to website.
4. Ensure cross-browser compatibility; option of converting website development to the MS FrontPage successor, Web Expressions.

Errol Myers
MISGA Web Chairman

MISGA BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2009

Crofton C.C.

Div II's Report

Division 2 held it's annual Spring Club Reps Training Seminar and general meeting @ Holly Hills C.C. on Wednesday, March 10, 2009. All Clubs with the exception of Winter's Run were in attendance.

Tom Tarpley was elected to serve as Assistant Division Director.

VFW C.C. announced that the Golf course property has been listed for sale. There is a strong possibility they will not be playing their Misga Mixers at that location. Plans are being formulated to play home events at another nearby location.

EVENT DATES 2009

June 15 Division 2, 2 – Man Team Championship @ Glade Valley G.C.
(Rain date – June 22)

July 20 Division 2 Stroke Play Championship (abcd tournament) @ Links of Challedon
(Rain date – July 22)

August 10 Division 2 PRO-AM @ Holly Hills

September 16 – 17, Division 2 Summer Frolic @ Carroll Valley Resort. (Board of Directors Meeting on the 15th)

Respectfully,
Bob Loun
Divison II Director

Division VI Report
MISGA Board Meeting 3/18/09

1. The Division VI Training Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at Patuxent Greens.
2. A Pro-Am is being planned for June 2009 at National Golf Club at Tantallon.
3. Division qualifying tournaments are scheduled:

Div 6 ABCD Qualifier	June 3 (6/16 rain)	Patuxent Greens
Div 6 Two-Man Team	Jun 23	Crofton (Marlborough)

Byron Keadle
Director, Div VI